Spread of Meningitis in Orissa

791. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has again been an increase in the incidents of meningitis in the tribals belt of Orissa; and

(b) if so, what fresh steps are being taken by Government to check the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b) No. The NICD team which visited the Phulbani, Kalahandi and Koraput districts of Orissa from 12. 5. 90 to 17. 5. 90. The team has observed that there is a fall in the case fatality rate from 23.1 per cent in 1988 to 10 per cent in 1990. The incidence of Meningitis in Kalahandi, Koraput. Phulbani and Ganjam districts of Orissa during 1988, 1989 and 1990 is as under:

Name of District	1988		1989		1990	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases (upto 30-4-90)	Deaths
Koraput	1605	431	2085	317	331	42
Kalahandi . . .	90	10	294	50	44	6
Phulbani	181	24	2152	77	289	20
Ganjam	210	17	90	25	117	10
TOTAL : . .	2086	482	4621	469	781	78

The team has suggested precautionary measures to the State Government which include:—

(i) strengthening of surveillance activities to bring down the case fatality rate further by way of early case detection and management.

(ii) monitoring of eqidemiological situation at various levels to combat any resurgence.

(iii) intensive health education campaign.

(iv) chemoprophylaxis to all close contacts.

(v) Immunoprophylaxis be given to high risk groups.

(vi) Gram straining facilities in laboratories of all community and Primary Health Centres.

(vii) Short term training to laboratory technicians; and

(viii) involvement / coordination with Medical Colleges .